

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAЕ-00 DODE-00

ERDA-05 /066 W

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P R 211821Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 0206

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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PASS: EUR/RPE FOR LAMB, OES FOR PROCHNIK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: UK PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON DRAGON: 12/18/75

REFS: (A) OECD PARIS 32465, (B) STATE 11554

1. DR. SHEPHERD, DIRECTOR OF DRAGON PROJECT HAS JUST DRAWN ATTENTION OF MISSION TO UK PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON 18 DECEMBER AS REPORTED IN HANSARD, PAGES 1716-1740. ON PAGE 1728 THERE IS A FANCIFUL STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED BY PATRICK JENKIN, M.P. TO KRAMISH, MISSION SCICOUNS TO THE EFFECT THAT "HE INDICATED AN INTEREST AND SUGGESTED THAT THE AMERICANS MIGHT BE PREPARED TO OFFER UP TO \$2 MILLION AS SUPPORT FOR DRAGON VIA THE IEA".

2. NEITHER SCICOUNS NOR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF MISSION HAS MADE ANY STATEMENT CONCERNING POSSIBLE LEVEL OF SUPPORT. UNTIL RECEIPT OF REF (B) OF 16 JANUARY MISSION HAD NO INDICATION OF POSSIBLE LEVEL OF ERDA SUPPORT AND SINCE INFORMATION IN REF (B) IS STILL VAGUE MISSION DOES NOT INTEND TO PASS IT ON EXCEPT WHEN

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SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED.

3. OUR TENTATIVE IMPRESSION IS THAT JENKIN EITHER RECEIVED A DISTORTED ACCOUNT OF A SANITIZED VERSION OF OUR REF (A) DISCUSSED IN PART WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSION, OR DISTORTED IT HIMSELF.

HIS STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT INDICATES THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MICHAEL SPICER, M.P. (CONSERVATIVE) WHO IN TURN HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE COMMUNITY. DRAGON IS LOCATED IN SPICER'S CONSTITUENCY. RECORD INDICATES HEATED DEBATE LED BY ARTHUR PALMER (LABOUR, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY) AND BY JENKIN WHO UNTIL MID-JANUARY 1976 WAS SHADOW CABINET MINISTER FOR ENERGY. THEY VEHEMENTLY ATTACKED THE DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN DRAGON.

4. RECOMMENDED ACTION: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INSTRUCTING EMBASSY LONDON INDICATE TO APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND UK AEA OFFICIALS THAT STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO KRAMISH IN HANSARD OF 18 DECEMBER IS DISTORTION OF US POSITION, MAKING POINT THAT US IS INDEED CONSIDERING DRAGON IN THE LIGHT OF NEW MULTI-LATERAL OBJECTIVES, POSSIBLY RELATING FUTURE DRE ACTIVITIES TO IEA PROGRAMS. SECTIONS OF HANSARD DEALING WITH NUCLEAR MATTERS ARE USUALLY REPORTED IN THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE ATOM OF THE UK AEA. IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO SUGGEST THAT NO PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED TO DISSEMINATE FURTHER INACCURATE ACCOUNTS OF US POSITION STATED AT THE 18 DECEMBER DEBATE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR REACTORS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OECDP01982
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760023-0156
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760135/aaaabeor.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OECD PARIS 32465, 76 STATE 11554
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON DRAGON: 12/18/75
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, UK, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006